

DE-RP27-09RV15051 – 222-S Laboratory Analytical Services & Testing

RFP Questions/Answers 29-40**Question/Comment #29**

Is the LAS&T Contractor responsible for 1) the procurement and 2) cost of chemicals and supplies required for the 222-S laboratory? Is there a Hanford-wide chemical supply facility that maintains quantities of necessary chemicals and/or supplies? If so, what chemicals required by the 222-S Laboratory are stocked there?

Answer # 29

The RFP does not specifically require the LAS&T contractor to procure or pay for chemicals. Both the Tank Operations Contractor (TOC) and the LAS&T contractor perform similar work in the 222-S lab and have common needs. It is DOE's expectation that the TOC and the LAS&T share or operationally merge certain resources and functions wherever practical. Chemicals management and procurement can be one of those areas. Specific arrangements between the two lab contractors would be the subject of a memorandum of agreement and would cover functional responsibilities and cost.

Question/Comment #30

C.2.2.c (Laboratory Information Management System): Would DOE please provide information on the LIMS system currently in use at the 222-S Laboratory?

Answer #30

The LIMS is similar in function to commercially available systems in use at commercial labs but is specifically designed, modified, and maintained for the needs of the Hanford site. Personnel from the LAS&T contractor use the LIMS systems by automatic input from the analytical instrument, manual input of information to establish parameters and reports, manual input of some data such as weights, review of data and report preparation. Cost to operate, modify and maintain the LIMS are borne by the TOC.

Question/Comment #31

C.2.2.g (Hot Cell Operations): Which contractor is responsible for decontamination of the 222-S hot cells?

Answer #31

Generally, the LAS&T contractor is responsible for normal operation of the Room 11A hot cells and that includes normal clean up and decontamination. Maintenance of the manipulators and hot cells themselves are the responsibility of the TOC.

Question/Comment #32

C.3.4(a)vii (Facility and Equipment Maintenance): This section specifies that the LAS&T contractor shall perform instrument maintenance. Page 89 of 95 of Section J, Attachment J-5 (Hanford Site Services and Interface Requirements Matrix), specifies that the TOC contractor will provide maintenance services to the LAS&T contractor. Would DOE please clarify which maintenance, repair, and preventive maintenance services on 222-S Laboratory facilities, equipment, and instrumentation are the responsibility of the TOC and the LAS&T contractors, respectively? Which contractor holds and pays for any instrument service agreements?

Answer #32

The LAS&T contractor is responsible for minor maintenance related to daily operations for such things as cleaning and changing of tubing or some indicator light bulbs. Other maintenance is performed under the labor agreement in place at Hanford or by service contracts. The TOC is responsible for both the service contracts and arranging labor union service work for instruments.

Question/Comment #33

H.26(e) (Contract Fee Reductions for Changes to Key Personnel) specifies that available fee will be “permanently” reduce. Would DOE please clarify use of the term “permanently”? Does this mean that fee will be reduced every year of the contract for each occurrence, or only during the year that the change occurs?

Answer #33

The available award fee pool to be specified in Section B.1, CLIN 02, will be permanently reduced by the indicated amount for each and every occurrence of a change in the Laboratory Manager or other identified Key Person. IAW H.26, this permanent reduction in the available award fee will be made at the time of the occurrence and only applies to the first two years of the Key Person being placed in the position. Any reduction in the available award fee is permanent as the dollars will no longer be available to earn in the current or future award fee evaluation periods.

Question/Comment #34

L.3(b)(2) (Representations and Certifications): Which companies (Offeror, JV/LLC members, major subcontractors, etc.) should submit Reps and Certs?

Answer #34

IAW L.3(b)(2), each Offeror must submit Reps and Certs. L.2(a) states that an Offeror may be a “contractor team arrangement” and L.2(r) states that Offerors who submit a proposal under a teaming arrangement shall provide full and complete information for each of the participant members/companies. Therefore, all participating members/companies under a teaming arrangement shall submit Reps and Certs.

Question/Comment #35

L.3(b)(4) (Subcontract Agreements): This specifies that a list of subcontracts is available on the procurement web site; however, we cannot locate such as list. Would DOE please post the list of subcontracts, or else delete this requirement in Volume I?

Answer #35

An RFP amendment will be issued to remove L.3(b)(4) (Subcontract Agreements) in its entirety as it is not applicable to the acquisition.

Question/Comment #36

L.3(b)(5) (Critical Subcontracts) and H.6 (Critical Subcontracts): Would DOE please define “critical subcontracts”? Does this term apply to major team subcontractors? What other types of subcontractors are included?

Answer #36

Critical subcontracts are subcontracts that are critical to successful performance of the contract. IAW L.3(b)(5), Offerors should identify any subcontracts deemed by the Offeror to be critical. During the proposal evaluation, the Government will determine which subcontracts, if any, are critical and require the Government’s consent before the subcontract can be entered into. H.6 will only be included in the resultant contract if the Government has determined a subcontract to be critical

Question/Comment #37

L.4(a) (Technical Approach): The last paragraph requires a “WBS description.” Does this refer to a complete WBS Dictionary? If so, this requirement would result in the WBS using most of the 15 pages allocated to this section. Would descriptive titles for each WBS element satisfy this requirement?

Answer #37

Descriptive titles for each WBS element are sufficient for the requirement. The titles, however, must be descriptive enough to enable the Government to clearly ascertain the work to be performed.

Question/Comment #38

L.5, Attachment L-7 (Required Cost Templates): Considering the level of detail required in the cost proposal, non-incumbent offerors are at a significant competitive disadvantage by not having access to the current project baseline. Would DOE please post the complete 222-S LAS&T project baseline on the procurement web site so that all offerors may compete on an equal footing?

Answer #38

A complete project baseline is not available. The scope of work included in Section C, historical data provided in Section L, Attachment L-9, and the Anticipated Funding Profile included in L.5 should be utilized in the development of the Volume III Cost Proposal.

Question/Comment #39

L.5, Attachment L-9 (Wage Rates of Incumbent Employees in Non-Managerial Positions): Would DOE please provide job descriptions for ALL incumbent employee positions (bargaining unit, non-bargaining unit, managerial, etc.)? This is important for offerors to understand the expected role of each position as we prepared staffing plans and estimate labor costs.

Answer #39

DOE will post on the acquisition website position descriptions for the labor categories provide in Section L, Attachment L-9.

Question/Comment #40

Documents Library – Typical 222-S Laboratory Operations, pages 4-8, lists 10,094 “analyses” performed by the incumbent LAS&T contractor during 2008. In numerous places, the RFP specifies that an estimated 15,000 analyses will be performed each year during the new contract. Does DOE expect a ~50% increase in each type of analysis to account for the increase from 10,094 in 2008 to 15,000 during the new contract? Or, does DOE predict that 4,900 new analyses of some unspecified type will be added to account for the increased workload? This is important for offerors to be able to estimate staffing and resources levels required to conduct 15,000 yet-to-be-quantified types of analyses each year.

Answer #40

The workload for Hanford, and the Tank Farms specifically, is variable and influenced by funding, regulatory agreements, priorities, number of QC samples required, unanticipated safety issues, or shifting workloads at other DOE operations. Consequently, the workload cannot be accurately predicted, nor can it be extrapolated from trends from the last several years. The quantity of 15,000 analyses only represents an estimated quantity for proposal preparation purposes.